

force behind the issues we have reviewed and who has shaped many of the legislative proposals we made as a result of our investigative and oversight efforts.

I also want to recognize the fine work and dedication of deputy staff director Priscilla Hobson Hanley; chief investigator Helen Albert; professional staff member Victoria Blatter; professional staff member Liz Liess; committee chief clerk Sally Ehrenfried; systems administrator Beth Watson; research assistants Lance Wain and Lindsey Ledwin; staff assistants Karina Lynch, Wendy Moltrup; and Myrna Webb; and GPO printer Joyce Ward. I extend my gratitude to these and all of the many committee staff, both past and present, who have contributed greatly to the mission of the committee.

I also want to recognize the fine work of Kathryn Gest, my press secretary and Mike Townsend, committee press secretary, for their excellent work in promoting the work of the Aging Committee.

Mr. President, the Aging Committee is perhaps unique among congressional committee due to its strong bipartisan cooperation. I want to congratulate and thank Senator PRYOR's dedicated staff on the committee for their many years of service to both the Senate and our senior citizens.

As I retire from the Senate, my staff will disperse to seek new opportunities and to make their contributions to the Nation in other ways. I wish them well and am deeply indebted to them for their service. The Senate Special Committee on Aging serves a very special purpose for the Congress and the Nation—and my staff on that committee has been very special indeed.●

FLOW CONTROL LEGISLATION

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the U.S. Congress has failed this year to resolve a serious solid waste problem, that of flow control. Many solid waste management issues have been rightly addressed by State and local governments. State and local governments have decided how solid waste will be managed, preferring landfilling, incineration, recycling, composting, waste reduction, or a combination thereof. Similarly, they have also provided the needed funding for their solid waste programs.

However, while State and local governments have played the key role, the Federal Government has also been involved in the management of solid waste. Through regulatory actions and federal court rulings, the Federal Government has dramatically influenced how State and local governments have approached their solid waste problems. For example, when the Supreme Court recently held that State and local governments could no longer designate where privately collected waste could be disposed of, some States and localities—including many in my State of Minnesota—were adversely affected.

No longer could a State—except in rare instances—prohibit waste shipments from out-of-State or impose fees on waste disposal that discriminate on the basis of origin, nor direct where privately collected waste had to be disposed. As a result of this decision—and those of other courts—many local governments teeter on the brink of bankruptcy. Without the ability to guarantee a volume of waste flow to their waste facilities, local governments are less able to finance the facility, as well as to plan for future development.

Recent Congresses, in addition to this one, have attempted to address the flow control problem. Legislation has been introduced to give States the authority to restrict the amount of solid waste imported from other States. However, the Senate and House have yet to agree on a solution. Due to Congress' inability to address flow control, many local governments are contemplating—or have already undertaken—drastic actions such as laying off employees and raising taxes. In addition, some local governments have had their bonds downgraded. Alarmingly, it seems that if the flow control problem is not addressed soon, the financial problems of many communities in my State of Minnesota and elsewhere will only worsen.

I have wholeheartedly supported flow control legislation in the past. While many in Congress continue to oppose such legislation, I will not rest. In the 105th Congress, I will continue to advocate flow control legislation to help communities in our country better manage their solid waste.●

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I wish to talk about the omnibus appropriations bill adopted by the Senate this week and signed into law by the President.

Passage and enactment before the end of the fiscal year was important to keep the Government in business and meeting the needs of American citizens.

The bill is significant in that it continues the Republican Congress' move to balance the Federal budget by the year 2002. It would have been easier had the President and his party not been more interested in obstruction over cooperation. Still, this Congress has cut around 300 unneeded Federal programs and saved \$53 billion in discretionary spending.

We provide for a higher level of defense funding than the President requested. We also approved strong anti-crime and antidrug packages, aggressive antiterrorism programs and stringent anti-illegal immigration measures. The bill increases funding to our States and communities hard hit by natural disasters.

My State of Idaho is one where residents and businesses had to cope with rains, floods, and wildfires this year.

There is a role for the Federal Government in helping stabilize riverbeds and hillsides, reducing environmental damage, putting businesses back on solid footing and firefighting efforts. This bill accomplishes that.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service watershed and flood prevention operations receive a \$63 million increase in this bill, \$5 million will go to help the Boise area recover from the devastating 8th Street fire in the Boise foothills. Without immediate attention to the fragile hillsides, this winter's rains and next spring's snowmelt could send tons of water and mud into homes and businesses all along the Boise front.

Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management's firefighting account will get a \$17 million increase over last year. Wildfires are claiming more and more Western land, and the BLM's resources are stretched to the limit.

The Forest Service, which manages more than 20 million acres in Idaho, gets a \$144.5 million increase in firefighting funding, \$17.7 million for management of the National Forest System, almost \$2 million for forest and rangeland research and nearly \$19 million in State and private cooperative programs.

The Federal Government owns two-thirds of the land in Idaho, so I'm pleased these needed increases will help develop and maintain solid management and cooperation with private and State landowners.

Preservation of our natural resources and treasured environment is important to me and to Idaho. I'm pleased to see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will get a \$6 million dollar increase for the cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. This grant program to the States will allow for cooperative agreements to save species and habitat. As I work on a revised Endangered Species Act, I want to encourage cooperation of States and private land owners to enter into these types of arrangements. States and local governments will play a greater role in species protection and recovery in the future.

Native Americans in Idaho and across the country will see increases in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. These increases are important so we don't neglect our obligations to tribes and their residents.

Besides what this bill does, it is important for what it does not do. There are no increases in grazing fees for ranchers in the West. Other amendments which limit Native American sovereignty were also dropped.

Mr. President, I am proud that this Congress passed, and the President signed, the Safe Drinking Water Act. The bill is the only major environmental legislation of the 104th Congress, and represents the way environmental laws should work. It protects public health and safety while giving States and communities the flexibility

to manage water systems to meet their local needs. It is truly the best way to ensure safe and affordable drinking water to every American.

This omnibus appropriations bill includes an additional \$40 million for the new Safe Drinking Water Act. \$10 million will be dedicated to important health research on contaminants that are present in drinking water and that pose real threats to humans, like the microbe cryptosporidium that killed over 100 people in Milwaukee in 1993. With better science and a better understanding of contaminants in our drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency and our States will be able to target their limited resources on the most serious water problems.

Earlier I mentioned how this bill strengthens our national defense. While I do not agree with all that is in this omnibus package, especially the funding for foreign aid, I have to applaud stronger national defense.

This bill provides an additional \$9 million to slow the pace of the Clinton defense cuts. I believe this administration has cut too far, too fast. At a time when we're asking men and women in uniform to do more, we shouldn't be providing less. As our Armed Forces take part in so-called peace-keeping operations around the world, we should be supporting them, not cutting them. As chairman of the Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, I'm pleased our military forces will be getting a 3 percent pay raise. I wish it could be more, but at least we're taking care of the troops and their families.

Idaho plays a key role in research and development to keep our national defense the best and strongest in the world. I am proud of the dedicated scientists, engineers, and workers in Idaho who fill important roles to make sure when our troops are called into action, they have the best and most advanced equipment and technology. The work at laboratories from Idaho Falls to Sandpoint saves lives.

The Department of Defense appropriations bill in this omnibus package funds projects which help diversify the missions at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. It provides \$3.5 million for an Air Force Battle Management System and \$3 million for the chemical weapons demilitarization Mobile Munitions Assessment System. These projects are designed to protect our forces in the field, where training and equipment are expected to perform.

Our Navy benefits from this bill as well. This bill funds \$40 million over the President's request for advanced submarine technology development, much of this work is done at the Navy's acoustic center at Lake Pend Oreille in northern Idaho. Pend Oreille is the deepest lake in the country, and provides an excellent laboratory and training ground for development of the quietest and hardest to detect submarines in any ocean.

Mr. President, while I don't like the fact this bill is more than \$6.5 billion

dollars more than Congress originally proposed, it does continue to bring fiscal responsibility to the Federal budget, and continues the pledge this Republican Congress made to Americans to balance the budget. It is important to note these spending increases are paid for with other provisions in this bill.

Therefore, Mr. President, I can only hope that in the next Congress, we can not only trim discretionary spending, but we can pass laws that will attack runaway mandatory spending. It is possible, if we have a President and a Congress that will work together.●

CITY OF HOLLAND

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the city of Holland, MI. In June 1996, the National Civic League selected Holland as 1 of 10 All-America Cities that best displayed their ability to recognize and respond to problems in the community.

Holland was singled out for several of its successful community programs. These include: the Maple Avenue Church recreation facility, which provides supervised youth programs which reduce gang violence; Van Raalte Elementary School's program of offering tutoring, drug prevention training, recreation, and family help; and the Our-street program, which helps homeowners, landlords, and tenants. These programs work to bring down racial and ethnic barriers that have divided people and foster a strong sense of community.

When announcing this year's winners, John W. Gardner, chairman of the National Civic League said, "These ten communities have one thing in common: A belief in the power of grassroots problem solving." I can think of no better description of the city of Holland. The residents of Holland have taken it upon themselves to reach out to their neighbors and work to improve their community.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating the city of Holland on this distinction.●

RETIREMENT OF JOHN GALLOS, TWIN CITIES TELEVISION PIONEER

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, there was a song actor Walter Brennan made popular in the early 1960's in which he reminisces about an old farmhand he recalled from his childhood. "I can't remember when he 'twere'n't around," went the lyrics. I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Minnesotan, one of our State's pioneers in television, of whom can truly be said, "We can't remember when he 'twere'n't around."

An entire generation of Minnesotans fondly remembers John Gallos as Commodore Cappy and Clancy the Cop, the characters he created for a pair of early-morning children's programs at WCCO Television in Minneapolis. In the early 1950's, television was in its

infancy. It was anything goes as John and his colleagues experimented with and defined this new medium. The weekly prop budget of \$1.50 did not buy much in those early years, but the kids who flocked to their television sets to start their days with a dose of Cappy or Clancy did not care: they had found a place where they were always welcome.

Besides his children's programming, John hosted a nondenominational religious talk show entitled "Sunday Morning With John Gallos" which ran on WCCO for 31 years. The show was honored in 1995 with a Wilbur Award from the Religious Public Relations Council for its excellence in communicating religious and ethical issues. John rightly counts "Sunday Morning" as one of his proudest achievements.

When I think of John, another of his Sunday projects comes to mind: a weekly salute to Laurel and Hardy that introduced the comic legends to a new generation.

There is one story John often tells because to him, it demonstrates the positive impact local television can have on a community. For the rest of us, it exemplifies the positive impact John Gallos himself has had on the lives of Minnesota families. It happened just before Valentine's Day around 1959. John, as Commodore Cappy, was talking on the air with Vivian Vulture, one of his puppets. "I suppose you'll get a lot of Valentines this year," he told her. "No, Commodore, I never get any Valentines," answered Vivian, and she started to cry. The Commodore wiped a tear from his own eye and said, "Perhaps the children will think of you this year."

Mr. President, over the next few days, more than 10,000 Valentine cards poured into the WCCO studios addressed to that little puppet.

In recent years, the voices of most of the pioneering talents in Twin Cities television have grown quiet, as they trade their shifts in front of the cameras and microphones for retirement. And now, after nearly a half century spent inside the radio and television studios of WCCO, John Gallos is retiring, too. My colleagues in the Senate join with me in congratulating John for his lifetime of service to his community. We thank him for his generous spirit, and wish him well in the years to come.●

MONETA J. SLEET

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on September 30, 1996, our Nation, and the world, lost one of its most gifted documenters of history, photographer Moneta J. Sleet.

Moneta was the first African-American to win journalism's most prestigious award. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for documenting the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His photograph of Coretta Scott King holding her 5-year-old daughter at Dr. King's funeral has come to symbolize the tragedy of this turbulent period in our nation's history.